



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

RESOLUTION

R149 – 2025

Introduced by the City Council and the Mayor on October 15, 2025

Mayor Matt Tuerk and Allentown City Council hereby dedicate the 500 block of Hickory Street as Jerry Christian Way.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, § 5-29, Dedicating City assets, of the Allentown City creates procedures for dedicating city assets that are conditioned upon council passing a resolution recognizing an exceptional significant contribution of an organization or individual has made to the public life and the well-being of the people of Allentown; and

WHEREAS, City Council and the Administration recognize the significant impact Mr. Christian had on Allentown youth: in the late '70s and early '80s he formed a Youth Concerns Coalition Group whose focus was to coach kids and talk to them about what they needed to establish for their futures; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Christian held innumerable tournaments at Fountain and the former Valania Park that brought the community together with not only sports but included church music, modeling and karate exhibits and various other festivities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Christian touched many lives including former Allen High Head Basketball coach Tyrone Wright; former Dieruff Head Boys Basketball coach the late Foo Belfield; the former Bethlehem Catholic Boys Basketball Coach Al Blount and basketball mentor Kirk Baker. In Mr. Christian's honor, Baker, Blount, and Wright organized the "Jerry Christian Basketball Classic" for both boys and girls ages 13 and under and 15 and under; and

WHEREAS, He officially stopped playing basketball for pay and went to work for the Life Insurance Company where his shifts often consisted of day and evening hours, and, in 1992, he received an agency from Nationwide Insurance, and he has been his own boss ever since at his Easton-based office; and

WHEREAS, even though basketball has been the vehicle Mr. Christian used to go to college and to play professionally for 10 years — including one year in a pro league in Belgium — he values his commitment to becoming a born-again Christian as one of the best thing to ever happen to him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that City Council and the Administration thank Mr. Christian for his years of community service and his impact on the Allentown and Lehigh Valley Community; and in recognition of Mr. Christian's significant impact on Allentonians, Mayor Matt Tuerk and Allentown City Council hereby dedicate the 500 block of Hickory Street as Jerry Christian Way.